



# NEWSLETTER



## Delta, Alger, Schoolcraft and Marquette County

August 2012

### USDA Service Center

Delta, Alger, Marquette and Schoolcraft County FSA

2003 Minneapolis Avenue Suite 102  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
906-428-1060 (phone)  
906-428-1086 (fax)  
www.fsa.usda.gov/mi

### Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### County Committee

Jon Haindl, Chairperson  
Allen Porath, Vice-Chair  
Heidi Heidtman, Member  
Dan Bahrman, Member  
John Wolf, Member  
Diane Hanson, Advisor

### Staff

Mitch Towne, CED  
Kris Gallant, PT  
Rita Mills, PT  
Bruce Stephenson, FLM  
Bonnie Richmond, FLPT  
Clem Geiger, FL-STO



## MILC Program

FSA's Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level. MILC payments are made when the Boston Class I milk price falls below \$16.94 per hundred-weight (cwt) as adjusted by the dairy feed ration adjustment. The monthly Boston price is posted online at:

[http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast\\_Order\\_Prices/NE\\_Prices\\_main\\_new.htm](http://www.fmmone.com/Northeast_Order_Prices/NE_Prices_main_new.htm)

Eligible producers should submit the current MILC (Milk Income Loss Contract) statements for payment. Eligibility for 2012 must be completed before payments can be disbursed. Please contact the office to check the status of your eligibility. New producers are encouraged to apply for the program any time before Sept. 30, 2012.

## Over the Counter Channel (OTCnet)

FSA/CCC is moving toward OTCnet, an electronic method for processing customer check payments. When a check is submitted for payment either in person or through the mail, the check will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information @ <http://fms.treas.gov/otcnet/legal.html>

### What is OTCnet?

OTCnet is a Web-based online application process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer's bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

## Filing for NAP Losses

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576, Notice of Loss, in the FSA County Office **within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster** or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

## Late-Filed Crop Certifications

Did you forget to "certify" your crops for 2012 by the deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup> 2012? Don't lose hope!

You can still late-file certify these crops, as long as evidence of the crop is left in the field. There is no late charge this year so now is the time to get it done.

Remember, crop certification is a requirement for participation in certain FSA programs. Call the office today to report!

## Highly Erodible Lands and Wetland Compliance (HELWC)

Producers participating in most programs administered by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are required to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.

To be in compliance with the HELC and WC provisions, producers must agree, that they will not:

- Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;

Continued on next page:

## Foreign Landowner Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, real estate agents, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements



- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity.

Producers planning to remove fence rows, convert woodlots to cropland, combine crop fields, divide a crop field into two or more fields, install new drainage, or improve or modify existing drainage, must notify the FSA and update Form AD-1026. FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.

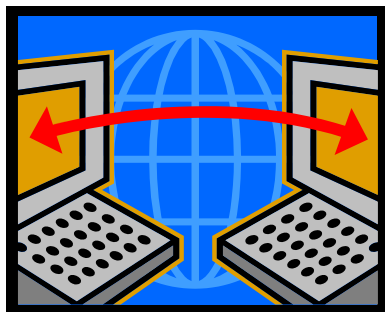
To get additional information on highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance contact the FSA office [www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation) or the NRCS office <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> at a local USDA Service Center.

## Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems (MIDAS)

MIDAS is the Farm Service Agency's initiative to "Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems". The heart of the MIDAS initiative is to improve the delivery of FSA farm program benefits and services through the re-engineering of farm programs business processes and the adoption of enhanced and modernized information technology. MIDAS will modernize the delivery of farm programs and services in the following ways:

### New means of Newsletter Delivery

We would like to encourage all producers to sign up your email address online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mi> Follow the "Newsletters" link on the left column of the main page and enter your email in the "Sign up for updates" box under "Stay Connected" section.



- Improve access and convenience for producers, ranchers, farmers, and field office employees
- Rapidly develop and deploy new farm programs using modernized Information Technology (IT) systems and software
- Advance and streamline business processes using the industry best practices and methodologies
- Achieve compliance by improving oversight, management, and accountability for administering FSA farm programs

The MIDAS project's success will be measured by the enhanced business process efficiencies, improved services to customers, achievements in compliance (reduction in erroneous payment percentages) and the decreased redundancies within farm program delivery and services.

## Adjusted Gross Income

USDA and the Internal Revenue Service have established an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) provisions for farm programs. Written consent is required from each producer or payment recipient for the tax review process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to FSA.

This ensures that payments are not issued to producers whose AGI exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments and; \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

Participants in CCC programs subject to average AGI rules must submit form CCC-931 to their local FSA County Office by June 15 to avoid interruption of program benefits. This form may be obtained from local FSA and NRCS offices. **If you have received a letter indicating that you must return a 2009, 2010, 2011, or 2012 CCC-931 AGU form, please do so as soon as possible.**

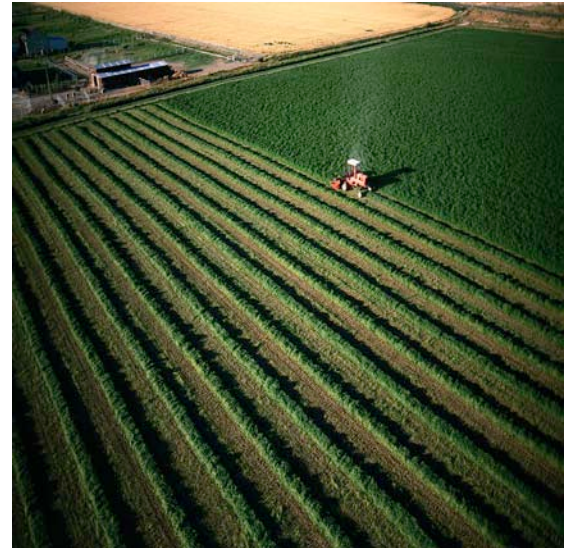
## What is Hay Net?

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) electronic Hay Net Ad Service (eHayNet) is an Internet-based service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online.

### **A few things to remember when getting familiarized with the site:**

- There is a one-time registration process that should be completed by all users who want to post an ad online.
- Users just wishing to browse ads DO NOT NEED to have an eAuthentication user id.
- Hay Net Ads will be automatically removed after a period of 13 months.
- Please help your fellow farmer and rancher by keeping ads current and up to date. Remove ads you no longer need advertised on our Web.
- Please use this site in a courteous\_manner. The site was not designed for use by placing ads in each state, or advertising your company.

We look forward to serving you with your Hay Net Ads.



### **How Do I Access the Hay Net Service?**

Select '[Access Hay Net Service](#)' at the top of the page. Browsing access to the Hay Net service is available to all USDA customers, without the need to create an account.

### **How Do I Place an Ad on Hay Net?**

This process is easy and only requires creating a user ID and password and confirming\_your\_email. Click here to go to the [eAuthentication](#) page. From here, click on the '[Create an Accounts](#)' link, and finally, follow the instructions to complete a request for [Level 1 Access](#).

Once you have your eAuthentication account, you can click on the 'Login' link\_on the top of this page and enter your user ID and password on the USDA login screen.

USDA provides Hay Net services in a secure online environment that protects\_participants' privacy through stringent security measures.

FSA's HayNet customers can use a personal\_computer to submit Have Hay Ads or Need Hay Ads as well as view existing Ads.

The HayNet process is available 24/7, except during routine back-up and maintenance periods.

#### **To assess FSA's Hay Net:**

Go to: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

Click the Disaster Assistance Program link on left

Click Online Services tab on top

Click Hay Net link on right

Dates to remember	
County Committee Election	Coming soon, look for details in upcoming letter
September 30	NAP sales closing deadline for 2013 forage crops
October 8	Columbus Day
Oct/Nov	CRP and DCP payments being issued
November 12	Veterans day (Observed)
November 15	Final date to report crop year 2013 wheat, perennial forage, and all fall seeded small grains
November 22	Thanksgiving

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information ( Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.